PERIODICO EN ESPAÑOL ADENTRO

CHALLENGE

FIGHT FOR COMMUNISM ★ LUCHE POR EL COMUNISMO ★ PLP

THE REVOLUTIONARY COMMUNIST NEWSPAPER OF PROGRESSIVE LABOR PARTY

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MARYLAND

NO JUSTICE IN A RACIST SYSTEM

Fight for Communism: where workers run, serve, and protect the world, no cops necessary.

Upper Marlboro, MD, June 14—Over 40 people rallied at the Upper Marlboro courthouse with the Archie Elliott III Coalition for Justice to fight racist police terror and fire corrupt cops. Many protesters correctly realize that the police are enforcers of the exploitative racist capitalist system. The cops can't be reformed short of smashing the entire capitalist system with communist revolution. All of us antiracist fighters are determined to continue to mobilize workers and students against the brutal police.

Progressive Labor Party (PLP) members are longstanding partners in the fight against racist police brutality. We were there as usual to help establish the picket line and share CHALLENGE with many of the protesters. We also got contacts from passersby to grow the Coalition and the fight for communist revolution. This rally is a kickoff for monthly "Moral Monday'' actions.

The Brady List

In the 1963 Supreme Court case of Brady v. Maryland, the justices ruled that Maryland had violated Brady's constitutional right to due process by failing to disclose all the evidence it had to the defense. Since then, prosecutors throughout the country have often declined to use compromised cops on the stand.

The Prince George's County States Attorney Aisha Braveboy, a Black woman, said publicly that she has developed a "Brady list" of 39 cops, 17 of whom she won't use in a trial because of their "misconduct," possibly including falsifying reports, fabricating or tampering with evidence, lying on the witness stand, coercing witnesses, and/or blatant racism. The other 22 can be used to testify but the disciplinary actions taken against them would have to be reported at any trial in which they would be involved.

The Coalition is angry with this coddling of the cops. It is demanding the public release of the list of these corrupt cops and their associated crimes, their firing and prosecution for criminal activity, and the appointment of a special prosecutor for such cases.

A speaker at the rally declared, "With this state of affairs, we can't trust Prince George's County policing or its prosecutors . . . We refuse to allow elected officials like Ms. Braveboy to protect police who break the law."

But actually that's the job of all politicians. They protect the capitalist system for the billionaire capitalists and that means protecting the cops. And sometimes it means disciplining a few cops to make it seem like the system works for everyone. It bears repeating – the whole system has to go.

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JOIN THE INTERNATIONAL FIGHT FOR COMMUNIST REVOLUTION

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OUR FIGHT

☆Progressive Labor Party (PLP) fights to destroy capitalism and the dictatorship of the capitalist class. We organize workers, soldiers and youth into a revolutionary movement for communism.

☆The dictatorship of the working class — communism—can provide a lasting solution to the disaster that is today's world for billions of people. This cannot be done through electoral politics, but requires a revolutionary movement and a mass Red Army led by PLP.

☆Worldwide capitalism, in its relentless drive for profit, inevitably leads to war, fascism, poverty, disease, starvation and environmental destruction. The capitalist class, through its state power — governments, armies, police, schools and culture — maintains a dictatorship over the world's workers. The capitalist dictatorship supports, and is supported by, the anti-working-class ideologies of racism, sexism, nationalism, individualism and religion.

☆While the bosses and their mouthpieces claim "communism is dead," capitalism is the real failure for billions worldwide. Capitalism returned to Russia and China because socialism retained many aspects of the profit system, like wages and privileges. Russia and China did not establish communism.

☆Communism means working collectively to build a worker-run society. We will abolish work for wages, money and profits. While capitalism needs unemployment, communism needs everyone to contribute and share in society's benefits and burdens.

☆Communism means abolishing racism and the concept of "race." Capitalism uses racism to super-exploit Black, Latin, Asian and indigenous workers, and to divide the entire working class.

☆Communism means abolishing the special oppression of women— sexism—and divisive gender roles created by the class society.

☆Communism means abolishing nations and nationalism. One international working class, one world, one Party.

☆Communism means that the minds of millions of workers must become free from religion's false promises, unscientific thinking and poisonous ideology. Communism will triumph when the masses of workers can use the science of dialectical materialism to understand, analyze and change the world to meet their needs and aspirations.

☆Communism means the Party leads every aspect of society. For this to work, millions of workers — eventually everyone — must become communist organizers. Join Us!

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WHO WRITES FOR CHALLENGE?

CHALLENGE is for the working class, produced by the working class. The fact that CHALLENGE/PLP articles are not signed grows from PLP's criticism of the cult of the individual in the former socialist Soviet Union and China. We do not want to encourage the possibility of building up a "following" around any particular individual.

While an article may be written by one person, the final version is based on collective discussion and criticism. Many times this collective discussion even precedes an individual's writing of an article.

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Editorial

G7 Summit

U.S. scrambles to prepare for world war

Top imperialist gangsters recently gathered at their annual Group of 7 (G7) summit in Cornwall, England in hopes of reasserting the declining U.S.-led liberal world order. The U.S. Big Fascist servant Joe Biden scrambled to slow the rise of arch imperialist rival China.

When the world's greatest thieves make future plans, workers must remain vigilant. The G7 global gangsters' planning meeting is a small window into the savage nature of global imperialists. When the U.S. rulers advertise their toxic reunion as an effort to defend "democracy" and "renewed cooperation" to "solving the world's problems," they are negotiating war plans. That is the only way exploiters can resolve their imperialist contradictions.

They will use workers to fight and die for the bosses' profit system. When we organize as a class for ourselves, through the international Progressive Labor Party, we can turn the guns around on this rotten system and smash it once and for all. With that power, we can build a communist society to meet our class needs.

U.S. empire in decline

Against the backdrop of the G7, capitalism is festering in its decay—nauseatingly high Covid-19 deaths; global vaccine apartheid; for-profit wars in Ethiopia, Palestine and Syria; and cyber attacks from Russia. The G7 is a bloc of capitalist countries—the U.S., Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, and the United Kingdom—that formed in 1975 to counter the OPEC oil embargo. In its prime, during the late years of the Cold War, the G7 leveraged its members' economic power against the already capitalist Soviet Union. The group is run by finance capital, the main wing of capitalism worldwide. Today, it's a shell of its former self.

The G7 reunion, touted as an opportunity to reassert their top dog status, was really a confirmation of a U.S. empire in imminent decline.

Salvaging the house that former president Donald Trump set ablaze—when he blocked the G7's climate and trade goals, destroyed the Iran Nuclear deal, and alienated U.S longtime allies—is upsetting the U.S. rulers' imperialist aims.

Grappling with China's rising clout

The summit illuminated the many contradictions facing the global ruling classes. Biden's Build Back Better World (B3W) is a pie-in-the-sky plan to counter China's imperialist influence by providing an alternative to the decade-old Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) (see box). This shaky plan for global infrastructure development reveals the U.S.'s desperation to match their rival China for top dog position. However, other imperialists are wary of backing an unreliable declining U.S. empire against a rapidly rising China.

Biden's G7 trip was intended to put the EU at ease. Yet, the bitter split within the U.S. ruling class—Small Fascist "America First" and the Big Fascist liberal imperialist wing—continued to sow doubts. How can the U.S. roll out the B3W when it can't even pass its own infrastructure bill at home?

The EU bosses, also dealing with internal rifts over Brexit, are distrustful of the U.S. ruler's return to the world stage. Unswayed by Biden's Big Fascist liberal credentials, the EU bosses were left questioning whether the U.S. can get their act together, and avoid another Little Fascist takeover in the next four years. The U.S. Big Fascists effectively failed to rally its old, trusted allies against China.

The G7 cosigned the B3W project and glibly denounced China's human rights abuses, but the EU bosses cannot break off their affair with China: " [France's President] Emmanuel Macron said…'I will be very clear: The G7 is not a club hostile to China…'" (CNN, 6/14). The ruler's summit brought their weakness into sharper focus.

Moving closer to World War III

The main takeaway from the G7 forum is that an empire in decline is at its deadliest. From the Civil War to World War II, history has shown a falling power does not go quietly. The forces of history are stacked against the U.S. as it struggles to manage its decline, moving the world closer to a U.S.-China war.

Biden's National security Advisor Jake Sullivan argued that the strategy is "don't try to push towards confrontation...but be prepared to try to rally allies... toward...tough competition….in the security domain as it is in the economic and technological domains" (NYT, 6/13).

Following the G7 summit, China increased military aggression against Taiwan (Newsweek, 6/15). Nevertheless, the U.S. ruler's find themselves wholly unprepared to win a war with China. The U.S. empire's battle readiness depends on their ability to build the fascist movement they desperately need. Jim Crow Joe Biden's passing of Juneteenth as an official holiday (see backpage) and his calls against police murder and anti-Asian violence are superficial attempts to win loyalty needed to build a multiracial military willing to fight and die for U.S. imperialism. Trusting the rulers is a march to our certain death. These are the same rulers who disregarded millions of workers' lives throughout the pandemic and deprived us of life-saving vaccines in the name of profit.

Capitalism's future is bleak, but not all is doom and gloom for *our* class. Every crisis reveals our potential power. At the height of the pandemic, we waged war on the rulers' profitdemic and organized to serve our class.

From striking amazon workers to healthcare workers around the world fighting for safe patient and working conditions—

From Los Angeles to Brooklyn workers fighting landlords and the courts from evictions—

From Haiti to the Bronx workers setting up mutual aid networks to provide for unemployed, disabled, and elderly workers—

From Colombia to Minnesota workers rebelling against the ruler's fascist police forces—

Our fightback amid the crisis reveals that the working class is the class fit to run society. As the U.S. ruler's decay accelerates the ruler's are prepared to sacrifice millions in their next global crises in the march up to World War III, the Progressive Labor Party calls on the international working class to turn the ruler's impending world war into a class war to overthrow their crisis-ridden system. The future belongs to us, and only communism can guarantee it. Join the PLP. Fight for communism.✪

BRI vs. B3W: rival infrastructure plans prepare for WWIII

The U.S.'s "Build Back Better World" (B3W) infrastructure plan is the latest aspirational attempt at countering China. When the world's bosses discuss rebuilding infrastructure, they certainly don't intend on building what workers need to live better lives. The reality is that China's decade-developed Belt and Road Initiative and the U.S.' shoddy B3W plan are both imperialists' ways of wielding global power. What does that mean for us? World war.

China's BRI is a multi-trillion-dollar development, funding and building roads, power plants, ports, railways, 5G networks and fiber-optic cables around the world. The BRI spreads across 100 countries spanning Africa, Latin America, and into Europe itself. The U.S.'s official council report admits, "Many BRI countries appreciate the speed at which China can move from planning to construction" (NYT, 6/12).

"Build Back Better World," the G7's improbable plan, would provide an alternative global infrastructure plan with funding possibly coming from the U.S. and the other G7 nations. But the group couldn't even settle on a timeline to eliminate the use of coal for generating electric power (NYT, 6/13).

Students & faculty united

Slam CUNY's complicity with Israeli racist terror

From Palestine to New York City we must divest from nationalism and invest in class struggle that is internationalist in scope. Let's smash imperialism and fight for communism.

NEW YORK CITY, May 28—"Our safety will never come through ethnic cleansing. It will never come through apartheid" said the president of the Jewish Law Students Association of the City University of New York (CUNY) to a militant rally of 300 students and faculty in front of the John Jay College of Criminal Justice. This rally comes on the heels of the Israel Defense Forces' (IDF) racist terror-bombing of Gaza, which killed more than 275 people (one-third of them children) and displaced tens of thousands. (SEE CHALLENGE editorial from 6/9) John Jay was targeted because its criminal justice program collaborates with the NYPD and the IDF, and protestors demanded that CUNY cut all ties with Israel.

One speaker pointed out that some faculty are former members of the IDF, and some Fulbright scholars are current IDF. A City College speaker told of several instances of discrimination against Palestinian students and a John Jay student connected the racist oppression of Palestinians to the racist terror faced by Black people in the U.S.

Anti-imperialist union resolution adds momentum

Following the demonstration, on June 10, the delegate assembly of the 29,000-member Professional Staff Congress (PSC), the faculty and staff union at CUNY, passed a resolution calling Israel an apartheid state, calling on chapters to discuss support for "Boycott Divestment and Sanctions" (BDS), and demanding that the Biden administration end all funding of the occupation of Palestine.

The original resolution was co-sponsored by the PSC's Anti-Racist Committee, the Academic Freedom Committee and the International Committee, where PL'ers have been active for years. A watered-down replacement resolution was introduced by the new PSC Executive Council, but delegates fought back with a series of amendments to restore most of the content of the original. Every proposed amendment passed, and the final resolution passed, 84-34, with the four principal officers voting against it.

Anti-imperialism vs liberalism, nationalism, and identity politics

While the student rally and PSC resolution were

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Maryland: No justice in a racist system

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No justice for Archie Elliott III, killed in 1993

Racist murders and corruption by Prince George's County cops is legendary. It is likely that some defendants sitting in jail have been falsely convicted based on the testimony of corrupt, lying cops. These mainly Black men could be exonerated if the list is brought to light. Fighters against racist police brutality have been struggling mightily for decades, case after case, often reported in CHALLENGE. We have to keep fighting, but the final victory will only come when we take power from the capitalists and their politicians and the working class runs society. That's communism.

One of the most egregious cases was that of Archie Elliott, a young Black man who was pulled over in June 1993 for suspected DUI, detained, handcuffed behind his back and placed in the front seat of a police car. He had been searched, was wearing shorts and no shirt, and was suddenly and wrongfully murdered in a hail of bullets, 14 of which hit Archie. The cops manufactured a story that he had a gun and pointed it at them – from behind his back while handcuffed! Officials have blown off this heinous racist crime for almost 30 years, but his family has persevered through numerous legal efforts, speaking on his behalf, and rallying fighters including many PLP members for years.

States Attorney Aisha Braveboy, a Black elected official, declared during her campaign for office that she would reopen the case if elected. She was elected, and now…nothing. She has the nerve to say that the files cannot be found, so she can do nothing. Liberal racists are clearly dangerous for our class. The protection of racist and corrupt police continues, but the demand for re-opening the case has been intensifying.

Communism: Workers rule no cops necessary

The capitalists and their politicians, whether Black or white, conservative or "progressive", will always support the enforcers of the capitalist system. The bosses need the working class to be divided, intimidated, and where necessary, killed brutally to ensure the smooth working of capitalist "law and order", an order based on the exploitation of the working class. We can and will continuously protest, but nothing short of a revolution to overthrow the entire class of racist exploiters and their politicians and bureaucrats will enable us to make each other safe – especially from the cops.

A communist world of equality and collectivity has no use for racist killer cops and their violence against the working class because the working class would rule and the capitalist class would be destroyed! Money, the basis for most crime, would be eliminated. And we would solve any problems we have with each other through collective discussion and struggle. Communism is the system that can ensure our safety—and punish racists and capitalists who try to come back to power.

Achieving communism is a long road of ever-intensifying class struggle against racism and exploitation. Let's continue down this road until revolutionary victory!✪

Graduation speech:

‘We will never stop fighting’

The following is an excerpted graduation speech delivered by a communist high school student to their graduating class of 2021.

I am gonna begin this speech just like every other high school senior who is speaking at graduation by congulating us for persevering through the past 16 months of adversity.

I know I can speak for everyone when I say that it has been difficult to stay motivated and confident through online learning, constant worry of sickness, and crowded households. But with the continuous support of our teachers and classmates, we persevered!

We are here today because of all the hard work we have done through one of the most unconventional and difficult high school experiences in history.

But the truth is, our celebration goes far beyond making it through the past 16 months of covid.

As students in a predominantly Black and Latin school in a racist education system, our high school adversity started four years ago. We have undergone four years of oppressive metal detectors, four years of being told “put your metal items in your bag,” four years of being treated like criminals. Despite the DOE [Department of Education] trying to infect our brains with the false idea that we are not meant to succeed, we’ve fought and won. Our diplomas are our trophies. We are all here proving them wrong.

However, today we are not celebrating enduring racism, we are celebrating fighting racism.

In ninth grade, we entered a community that had spent years building an antiracist and multiracial environment. We saw that and we flourished.

We recognized the DOE’s purposeful separation between all the schools within our building and created and joined campus council to help ease tensions. We spoke with students at the mainly-white high school and realized that we are more alike than we are different. Campus council has held multiple successful school wide game nights, movie nights, and parties. We fought and we won.

We observed the disparity between the sports teams, what the mainly-white school in the building had access to versus what we had access to. Students, teachers, and faculty united and worked to get us more sports teams. We fought and we won.

We continued to fight to merge the sports teams with ours to build comradery and unbeatable teams. This year, PSAL [Public Schools Athletic League] could no longer ignore the continuous calls for change and combined the sports teams. We fought and we won.

And just like we won our fight for an integrated building, we will win our fight against metal detectors. Today, we celebrate the combined sports teams, and in the future, the graduating seniors will give speeches celebrating the removal of the metal detectors.

The platform that we’ve been given to speak up for ourselves and fight against inequity is only possible from the foundation built by the students before us. We have successfully continued the work of our predecessors to help enable the victories of our successors. We have done our work to ensure that the school we are leaving today is a better, stronger, and more resilient school than it was when we entered.

We’ve created unforgettable memories that we, and the faculty here will cherish for the rest of our lives. And while I’m sad that I cannot sit here and reminisce about prom or our senior trip, we had four years worth of fun in the just two and a half years we had in the building.

So here’s to every joke made in spanish class, every picket line outside of the building, every nail biting basketball game that had us on our feet, every laugh, tear, and every schoolwide gathering in the auditorium where we got to cheer for our friends while they did some embarrassing performance for vocal class.

My high school has shaped us into the amazing students, friends, and antiracists that we are today.

It is now our job to take what we learned, both academically and politically, into the next chapter of our lives. Every college that we occupy deserves to hear the echoes of our school slogan the second we step on campus: “An injustice to one is an injustice to all.”

As a senior class, we’ve fought, we’ve won, and we will never stop fighting. ✪

Haiti: no vaccines, capitalist crisis fails workers

As this is being written, another wave of Covid-19 is hitting the working class in Haiti with ferocity. Under “normal” conditions of imperialist-imposed misery, there is little or no health care. In the capital city, there is one public hospital—understaffed, under-resourced and underfunded—for about three million people. In most departments (states), the situation is the same. For the majority of workers, there is nowhere to go, so they are ill and dying at home, unnoticed except by their loved ones. Needless to say, private hospitals, while only moderately better, are off-limits to workers.

The imperialist countries have yet to provide any vaccines against Covid-19 to Haiti, and when and if they do, what little can be expected will be “reserved” for the rulers and their allies who will push their way to the front of the line. Haiti is the only country in the western hemisphere that has yet to issue a shot of any COVID-19 vaccines (Bloomberg, 6/8). The racism is self-evident.

The government, with its history of working with the imperialist bosses to bleed the working class dry, has failed in every way during this crisis. The bosses have zero credibility, so most people don’t know what to believe about the pandemic, or just about anything else. But the rumor mill is active and has disarmed our class. It has made workers wary of vaccines, or doubting that the pandemic is real. The media ignores the pandemic except when it affects the “hauts-gradés” (big shots), though as the illness spreads and the death toll mounts, workers will have no choice but to confront the situation.

While all the conditions of daily life for workers and students—urban and rural—are deteriorating, what is really needed, more than vaccines and all the other necessities of a decent life, is a revolutionary communist party with deep ties among the masses to arm workers with the ideology and organization to change the world. We are fighting for all of it: a decent life today and communism tomorrow. We can change the world. The Progressive Labor Party has a lot of work to do. We will make the difference.

Build PLP! Fight for communism! Power to the working class! ✪

Colombia: divide and conquer

It’s already been a month since the workers’ blockades and marches here in Colombia. The national bosses have offered both the carrot and stick. They have managed to weaken the strike committees with the same strategy they used in 2019, buying time by offering negotiations but never really complying with workers’ demands.

Meanwhile, Colombia’s bosses have unleashed their war tactics: militarizing the country, criminalizing the blockades, infiltrating the marches, creating paramilitary groups that together with the military indiscriminately shoot at the marchers, robbing, destroying, and detaining hundreds of young people who appear in the Cauca River after they were reported as missing.

The defense minister faced charges in the national senate, but predictably he was acquitted. The Colombian bosses long resisted any visit of a human rights commission. The government of Big Fascist U.S. President Joe Biden, supports the Duque government as its most important ally in the region.

The government finally accepted the visit of the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights (IACHR), who only served to minimize and justify the state violence. The result is a project for the restructuring of the police, job creation, education, health, and projects for young people. All this to try to calm things down.

The strike committee broke negotiations with the government, as a tactic to coincide with the arrival of the IACHR. We the workers again march in Bogotá, to put pressure on where the bosses are meeting.

But no international organization will ever turn against the capitalist class. It is only a distraction that will give the fascists in power time to justify their actions and prepare to attack our class again. Only the united working class empowered by the method of scientific analysis (dialectical materialism) can draw the best conclusions to act according to reality, being led by a mass Progressive Labor Party that interprets the needs and will of the masses.✪

Tupelo Summer of ’79

Fight racism like a red!

Worldwide, the summer is a time of training for Progressive Labor Party. As we gear up for a summer of learning, it’s helpful to reflect on past Summer Projects. We will look at the Tupelo Project of ’79. The following article, published in CHALLENGE in 1979, reflects its time period and level of struggle. While we in 2021 are living in a qualitatively different time, there are many lessons to learn fro the suer of ‘79, including:

★ *In the face of the Ku Klux Klan and the racist capitalist government, we must be bold and have confidence in the working class to take the lead of communists.*

★ *Multiracial unity is our class’s weapon, and the bosses’ greatest fear.*

★ *To sustain our gains, we must grow the Party and train more Black, Latin, Asian, and white young people in leadership.*

Despite open threats of police and Klan violence and warnings from the United League’s sellout leaders, Tupelo workers and students came out to march on August 4. The spirit of the march was a sharp answer to the threats.

Significance of Mississippi

To many who remember the Civil Rights movements of the 1960s, Mississippi symbolizes the most extreme racism, the most brutal murders of Black workers, antiracists, and the stronghold of the Ku Klux Klan.

For Progressive Labor Party, Mississippi signified a base for revolution among Black and white workers, spreading the ideas of multiracial unity and the fight for communist ideas in the South. Today, we celebrate the 42th anniversary of the Tupelo Summer Project of ’79. About one hundred communists and friends—Black, Latin, Asian, and white—took part in this struggle.

Though relatively small (population of 20,000), Tupelo was an industrial center with over 14,000 workers. The South was of great importance to the ruling class as an industrial area because its carefully-nurtured tradition of racism has made it the citadel of low-wage non-union labor, where the bosses have been able to keep the working class divided and weak in order to extract extra profits.

The main lesson PLP learned in Tupelo, as everywhere, is to be bold. The bolder we were, the more seriously people took us and the more willing they were to respond to us. Workers understand that the system will come down hard when you try to fight it. They are also ready to understand that you only win on the offensive. Below is an edited excerpt from PL Magazine (Fall 1979) analyzing an aspect of the Tupelo Summer Project.

The great July demonstration

Sixty five antiracist marchers, organized by Progressive Labor Party and its [then-mass organization] International Committee Against Racism (InCAR), were marching through the streets in Tupelo, Mississippi chanting, “Death to the Klan.”

Shots rang through the air.

As the bullets grazed two marchers, , a disciplined group of people, Black and white, rushed out of line, isolated the racist who wielded the gun, and beat him to the ground. In the fight that ensued with this Klansman, or Klan supporter, the antiracists broke his neck. While this was happening, the marchers, maintaining a tight discipline that won them the respect of Tupelo’s working class, continued the march. The marchers, encouraged by the friendly faces that lined the streets and by the workers who joined the march, were able to withstand the menacing threat of the Tupelo police, who aimed their cocked guns at them.

From the start, it was clear that the racist local rulers wanted to stop this march. A new ordinance was created by the city government banning sound devices (in response to successful PLP-led rallies in the past); the police and their flunkies systematically tore down posters in the housing projects; and a permit for the march was not granted until the very last minute. As the march gathered in front of the courthouse, the bosses’ seat of power, a militant rally began, attracting a lot of attention from workers in the area.

A few minutes after the march began, the racist Klan member named Brasil shot into the demo. By the time the antiracist and antifascist fighters got hold of him, they were surrounded by cops who prevented them from finishing the racist off. The cops then grabbed one of the fighters, Floyd Banks, an InCAR member from Galveston, Texas and arrested him for “attempted murder.”

The march, meanwhile, regrouped and continued to lead workers in the area who joined the march in chanting, “The cops, the courts, the Ku Klux Klan, all a part of the bosses’ plan.”

Before I was scared, now I’m mad’

Many militant workers in Tupelo have come to see InCAR as the main mass organization that can lead workers in the fight against racism and the resurgence of fascist groups like the Klan. One Black woman worker said, “Before I was scared, but now I’m mad.”

This represents the feeling of many people here, that there is no longer the luxury to sit back and watch the ruling class and its flunkies hold power, that they have to get active and build a movement that has as its goal the destruction of ruling class ideas of racism and fascism, and in the final analysis, the ruling class itself.

The political climate is changing rapidly in the South, and only groups like PLP are prepared to respond to the changes, to give leadership and organize the multiracial, antiracist fightback that is necessary to move workers to the left. The United League, a Black reformist group, recently cancelled a march scheduled for Okolona (a town not far from Tupelo) today, because its leader Skip Robinson, essentially chickened out of the struggle.

More and more people are realizing that the leadership of UL cannot stand up to the rigors of the class struggle.

Workers put themselves on the line

Respect for PLP is growing here. Two residents of Tupelo put up their houses as collateral so that Floyd Banks could be bailed out of jail. When the two marchers who had been wounded were treated in the hospital, they were warmly received and treated by white doctors and other hospital workers. After the march stopped to rally, hundreds of Black workers surrounded the marchers to protect them from the cops (who would have been only too glad to be trigger happy.)

This is the first time a racist has been beaten by an antiracist march in Tupelo. The leadership of the UL always guaranteed the safety of the KKK and the cops by holding back the anger and hatred of Black workers in the fight to liberate themselves from the racism they face every day. The bosses think that they can destroy this movement by getting its leaders, but little do they know that leaders always spring up in the midst of struggle, and that there are many, many people right here in Tupelo, and other cities North and South, who can develop working-class leaders in the fight against racism and fascism, and they are being trained by Progressive Labor Party.

This was readily proven by the response not only of the marchers, in their determination to continue the march, not to be intimated by the cops’ harassment, but also by the tremendous support of the local people. Over 200 copies of InCAR Arrow and CHALLENGE were sold, 4 people joined InCAR on the spot. Another demonstration is being organized for August 4. ✪

LETTERS

We encourage all CHALLENGE readers to send in letters and articles about their experiences fighting the bosses worldwide.

I am not free.

The following poem has been written by a student.

I am not free because I'm forced to work to help my family and afford my necessities in order to survive.

I am not free because I don't have spare time to practice self-care or to have fun like other people my age do.

I am not free because I can't treat myself with the things I want and desire because I spend most of my income on my needs.

I am not free because I feel tired and depressed from being trapped in the cycle of poverty and capitalist laws.

I am not free because I understand that unfortunately we are forced to participate in consumerism which results in the exploitation of the working class and the enlarging of the capitalists' pockets.

I am not free because I see how others can't break free from the claws of these capitalist rulers.

I am not free because I hear the calls for justice for the deaths of innocent victims of the racist police system. The call for equality in our city.

I am not free because under capitalism we all are trapped in a never-ending unfair cycle; we are forced to risk it all and give it all just to make the rich richer.

We are not free until we honor people's hard work, dreams and contributions.

We are not free until we respect every single right each person has and the fact that they are humans like all of us, not some type of producing machine.

We are not free until we make sure that everyone's safety and future are secured, until we make justice for those who have been robbed.

We are not free until capitalism is abolished and we prioritize our people and environment.

We must fight for a better communist world with justice and equality for everyone.

We must demand the abolishment of unbeneficial racist capitalist laws.

Only then, can we all be truly free.

★★★★★★★

Red on radio: Stateless, movie on racist borders

I was lucky to get on the 'New Day' WBAI, NY radio talk show. The topic was a movie called Stateless about a Dominican who returns to the Dominican Republic (DR) where his mother was born but loses his birth papers and is subjected to such racism and persecution that he is forced to seek refuge and help from relatives in Haiti which is part of the same island, Hispaniola. Another caller said that even though the vast majority of Hispaniola is Black, the DR's racism towards Haitians was due to occupation and rule by colonialism which feared Haitian resistance against oppression to the point of denying any contact.

My comment was that capitalism and imperialism have always tried to eliminate even the very existence of the working class because it threatens their power. Today the words 'worker' or 'capitalist' are rarely used. Everything is spoken of as left and right or red and blue states.

I said, "Capitalism means profit over workers' lives while communism means abolition of profit and that communist workers' revolution is the one and only force in history ever to stop the imperialists in their tracks."

I said further that the DR, the U.S., and the rest of the capitalist world has a deadly fear of Haiti's history of defeating imperialist armies and in 1804 they led the first and only slave rebellion, and established the first democratic country in the western hemisphere. Haitian immigrants with revolutionary ideas going to New Orleans in the U.S. were a big threat to the U.S. slave holding society which led to many U.S. invasions and occupations of Haiti.

★★★★★★★

The rising threat of fungal diseases

The June, 2021 issue of Scientific American had a cover-story about the developing threat of fungal diseases because there are hardly any antifungal medications! I wrote the following letter to the editor. Hopefully you find it useful.

The article Deadly Kingdom (Scientific American, June, 2021) is a real wake-up call. Not only are viruses and bacteria a deadly threat but now fungal diseases (which are far more difficult to treat) are an even greater threat. However, an even greater threat is that Big Pharma is refusing to develop new antiviral, antibacterial, and antifungal medications because they are "just not profitable enough." The Covid-19 vaccines are NOT a valid example of rapid antiviral medication development. Most of the mRNA vaccine research had already been done, the U.S. Government guaranteed that the pharmaceutical industry would not lose any money if their vaccines failed, and the so-called "free" vaccines were fully paid for by taxpayers so Big Pharma made out like bandits. And the half-billion vaccines being "donated" to the world by the United States are also being paid for by taxpayers, giving the pharmaceutical industry another big pay-day. This is one more example of how capitalism, with its profit motive requirement, cannot meet the needs of the vast majority of the world's population.

★★★★★★★

Glossary

Communist political terms

Fascism

Capitalism's response to a crisis of their system, when the bosses can no longer sustain the charade of liberal democracy and resort to more direct control and state terror instead. Fascism is marked by the ruling capitalists disciplining their own ranks to serve the urgent needs of the capitalist state and weather the crisis. To defend their system from internal and external threats, they use all the means available in their state apparatus, including violence. To build unity within their class and loyalty from workers, they rely on nationalist politics and calls for sacrifice. Their strategy is to mislead the working class to kill our working class sisters and brothers in the next inter-imperialist war.

Big Fascists

The Big Fascists are the dominant finance capitalist faction of the U.S. ruling class. They represent the wealthiest and most powerful bosses in the U.S., including multinational banks like Chase and Citibank, multinational oil companies like ExxonMobil, the big automakers, Boeing, Amazon, and the major media companies. As the dominant grouping since World War II, the Big Fascists were the architects of the liberal world order with the U.S. bosses on top. Their dominance rests on U.S. financial and military power and its strategic control of the Middle East and the flow of oil to Europe, Asia, and Africa. To sustain this dominance, they need to rebuild a huge, multiracial military for inter-imperialist war, most likely with China.

Small Fascists

The Small Fascists are a group of domestically oriented U.S. capitalists who are challenging the Big Fascists over the direction of U.S. imperialism. Since their interests are less tied to controlling the flow of oil, they are against heavy taxation to keep troops in the Middle East and in general oppose costly military bases and invasions. They're willing to rely on a smaller, whiter army, backed by nuclear weapons and the Air Force. They have used open racism to build a political following.

Slam CUNY's complicity with Israeli racist terror

Continued from page 3

antiracist and anti-imperialist, only the revolutionary communist Progressive Labor Party (PLP) calls for the unity of Arab and Jewish workers against ALL the bosses to smash capitalism: whether

Israeli, Hamas or the Palestinian Authority. PLP organizes the international working class for communism against all forms of capitalism. Nationalism is a capitalist idea and as long as this remains the main ideology leading the anti-Zionist and anti-imperialist movement, any new nation that arises will be ruled by capitalists. Is this the "liberation" that Palestinian and working-class Jewish masses really yearn for — capitalist oppressors "who look like me"?

Few other places in the world feel the defeat of the old communist movement more acutely than in the imperialist war-torn Middle East. It is among the regions where a new international communist movement is most urgently needed, from Palestine to Yemen. The old communist movement made many errors, including maintaining the wage system and promoting nationalism. Nationalism has never led to real workers' liberation and, as PLP has analyzed elsewhere, was one of the driving forces that led to the reversal of the great Soviet and Chinese revolutions.

Pandemic winds down; fightback contagion spreads

PLP is organizing among students, faculty and staff who are angry at the CUNY administration and the politicians behind them. Protests followed at Hunter College High School, Borough of Manhattan Community College and City College against racist cutbacks, austerity budgets and racist entrance exams. At Kingsborough Community College, students and antiracist faculty have waged a years-long struggle to expose and remove a racist Zionist KCC administrator following racist public social media posts and link this fight to KCC's racist treatment of its majority Black and immigrant students and campus workers.

The Zionists responded by attacking any faculty they could think of, from intimidation through childish threats invoking the fascist terrorist Jewish Defense League, to ongoing lawsuits, to hilarious op-eds in local newspapers attacking PLP and calling out CHALLENGE (NY Daily News, 2/13/19). Despite spooking some fake left revisionist and pro-Palestinian nationalist faculty who cowed to individualism and anti-communism under pressure, the struggle continues connecting KCC's protection of fascist Michael Goldstein to CUNY's racist ties with Israel and racist attacks on students and adjunct faculty. Our growing relationships with students, campus workers and militant antiracist faculty has strengthened despite the pandemic and our forces are preparing to broaden anti-imperialist fightback this fall. As the bosses gear up to recruit our students for the next imperialist World War III , they'll be contending with a growing and battle hardened PLP on campuses from Brooklyn to the Bronx.

Organize a student strike, plant seeds for communist future

This rally and resolution against CUNY complicity with imperialist terror will help our growing movement expose the role of the university under capitalism to churn out workers and soldiers. Our tasks this fall include connecting these anti-imperialist and communist politics to the mass movement for a CUNY student strike for free tuition and rehiring the thousands of adjuncts who were fired during the pandemic.

Nationalism may be the color of the protests today, but the blood of our children is red the whole world over, and only communism is worthy of those we mourn! It's not a "free" Palestinian nation we have to win, it's a communist world. Join the fight for communist revolution! JOIN PLP!✪

Abolish racism with communist revolution

Continued from page 8

The bosses' media conveniently under-emphasized the central role the Tulsa police played in orchestrating the horror that wiped out uncounted hundreds of Black workers and instead placed front and center the destruction of a Black business district called 'Black Wall Street.' Black capitalism and Black Excellence are ways the ruling class aims to not only segregate workers across race lines but also suck us into thinking capitalism can work for the working class.

Bemoaning the loss of 'Black Wall Street' above and beyond the loss of Black lives is just another way the ruling class is twisting the history of U.S. racism to divert the rebellious and egalitarian spirit of antiracist workers and youth.

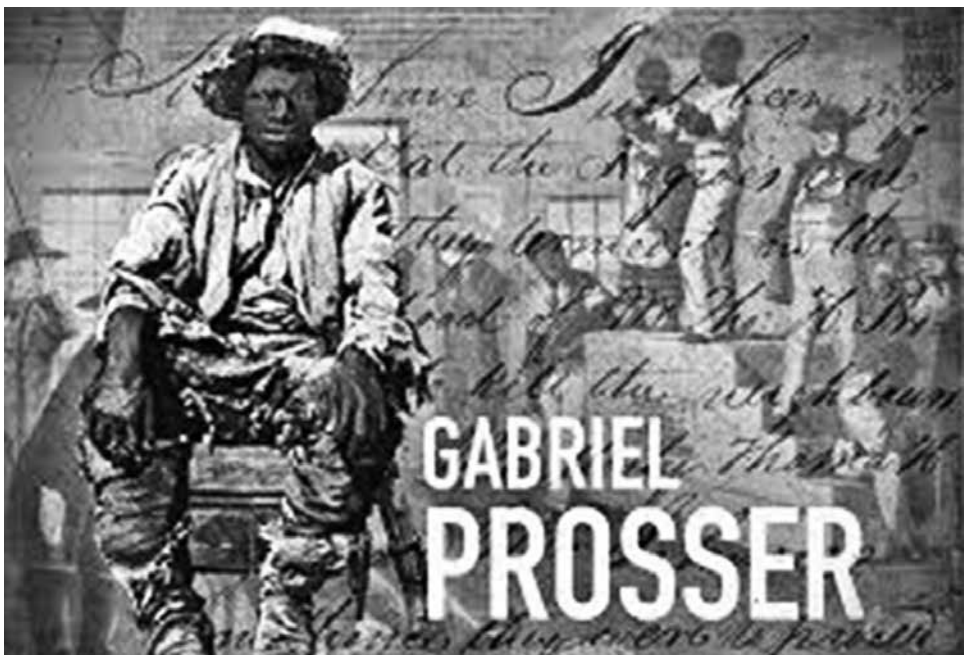
When the working class called to abolish police and racist murder, the ruling class gave them Black owned businesses, murals, and Juneteenth. The best Black capitalism can offer Black workers or any worker is a Black exploiter in place of a white one.

Don't let imperialists co-opt and pervert antiracism

Between the remembrance of the Tulsa Massacre, mourning Black Wall Street, and Juneteenth preparations, the racist U.S. ruling class' media frenzy peaked when the NYT's main Black opinion columnist, Charles Blow, published a piece on June 16: "The World's Dictators Exploit America's Racism." Blow's dishonesty and cynicism knows no bounds. Amidst a bumbling Biden's G-7 effort to bring the rotting cadaver of U.S. imperialism back to life (see editorial), Blow lamented the fact that U.S. 'leadership' is eroded and left unable to fight global "dictators" for… "no matter how bad these dictators act on the world stage ...they are not completely wrong in their condemnation of American racism" (NYT 6/21).

Blow grieves that despite the havoc U.S. competitors wreak on the workers of their own nations they will always be able to leverage U.S. racism to shut down criticism of human rights abuses as rank hypocrisy. But don't be fooled. His calls for antiracism are not in service of the working class, but rather, are in service of a U.S. empire he promotes despite it's murderous and racist agenda.

Blow calls for the U.S. to show just enough remorse to resuscitate global superpower status. With that status he and the entire U.S. ruling class will betray and devour the Black working class in imperialist carnage, as surely as the Northern industrial ruling class betrayed antiracist abolitionism and terrorized Black workers even as it left most white workers in grinding poverty after Reconstruction.



Gabriel Prosser's Rebellion in Virginia, 1800. Inspired by the Haitian Revolution, the Prossers organized enslaved and freed Black, poor white, and indigenous workers to to rebel against wealthy enslavers. They were preparing for the farthest-reaching rebellion in U.S. history. The rebellion was violently shut down by patrols and a milita. The very idea of organized multiracial unity threatened the exploiting class.

Revolutionary emancipation—finish the job, Join PLP

As seen through social media and conversations on the streets, workers are not fooled by the thin veil of a Juneteenth holiday supported by the likes of senators Rand Paul and Mitch McConnell who have led the charge in promoting racism.

Yes, some sworn enemies of Juneteenth are gutter and open racists, but that does not mean the working class should walk blindly into the open arms of liberal fascists like Biden, Kamala Harris, and their army waiting to reinforce our chains. Juneteenth, as a vision of emancipation, is worth remembering but the imperialists can only betray the cause of emancipation.

A Red Army guided by communist ideas is the only force that can finish the job Juneteenth, and Black worker uprisings during slavery started. This time we will emancipate all labor from capitalist wage slavery.

Our critique of Juneteenth, the holiday, does not take away one bit from the bravery of the multi-racial fighters, men and women, who fought and died for a vision of freedom. And it does not disrespect those who fought for the right to vote by saying that we will never vote our way out of capitalism and its horrors.

We must hold on to the lesson that defeat of a ruling class through armed struggle is the only way freedom has ever been won. The full victory of communism means we will have recognized this class enemy in all the varied forms it presents itself and smash its grip on our class one struggle after another until this enemy is no more.

This is Progressive Labor Party's road to revolution. Join us!✪

RED EYE ON THE NEWS . . .

Abbreviations
NYT= New York Times
GW=Gaurdian Weekly

Biden allows U.S. capitalists to evade $2.7 TRILLION taxes

NYT, 6/9 …The wealthiest people in the United States essentially live under a different system of income taxation from the rest of us….The wealthiest Americans are holding about $2.7 trillion in wealth on which they have not paid taxes….The 25 richest Americans…paid relatively little and sometimes nothing in federal income taxes from 2014 to 2018….Plutocrats like Bezos, Bloomberg, Buffett, Musk and Soros…benefite[d] from a complex web of loopholes…[given] the fact that the United States puts its emphasis on taxing labor income versus wealth. Much of the wealth that the rich accrue ... is not considered "taxable income….

…The private tax data [a ProPublica analysis] highlighted the relatively modest approach that Mr. Biden is proposing, given…the tax code [which] rewards wealth and punishes labor….

Second Amendment: to crush slave insurrections

NYT, 5/30, Book Review In "The Second: Race and Guns in a Fatally Unequal America," the historian Carol Anderson argues that slave-holding founding fathers insisted on the inclusion of the Second Amendment in the Bill of Rights…[for] a fighting force…to suppress slave insurrections…[while] racist practices have deprived Blacks of access to arms that might have enabled them to defend themselves….

…The specter of armed Blacks was so alarming that white authorities …enacte[d] statute after statute…invariably broaden[ing] prohibitions and intensify[ing] punishments.….A Virginia law…provided that under penalty of whipping, "no Negro, mulatto or Indian whatsoever" was allowed to possess a firearm. A Florida law authorized whites "to seize arms found in the homes of slaves and freed Blacks." Anderson narrates numerous episodes in which Blacks were terrorized by gun-toting mobs, often with support of local law enforcement officers, state National Guards or federal troops….

…The aim to protect slavery was the predominant motive behind the Second Amendment [which] "came into being…steeped in anti-Blackness….

…The dread of Blacks was the essential overriding cause of the Second Amendment …."Guns are not the key variable here. It's Black people….The Second Amendment is so inherently, structurally flawed, so based on Black exclusion and debasement that…it can never be a pathway to civil and human rights for 47.5 million African-Americans."

Undocumented farmworker slavery

GW, 5/21 In the piercing midday heat of southern Texas, farmhand Linda Villarreal [45] moves methodically to weed row after row of parsley, rising only occasionally to stretch her aching back.… For this backbreaking work, Villarreal is paid $7.25 an hour, the federal minimum wage…with no benefits….Villarreal works six days a week, sometimes seven, but earns barely enough to cover the bills….

Every day…she gets up at 4:30am to make packed lunches…before heading to the fields for a 7am start. Healthcare is a struggle: Villarreal takes diabetes medication that a…friend collects across the border….

About half of the 2.5 million farm workers in the U.S. are undocumented immigrants…although… the figure is closer to 75 percent. Even before the pandemic, farms were among the most dangerous workplaces in the country, where low-paid workers have little protection from long hours, repetitive strain injuries, exposures to pesticides, dangerous machinery, extreme heat and animal waste. Food insecurity, poor housing…and discrimination also contribute to dire health outcomes….

A staggering 59 percent...in the Rio Grande Valley metropolitan belt…are on low incomes with limited access to nutritious food, making this the worst…food desert in the country….More than one in four adults has diabetes, three times the national rate….A new state anti-immigration law authorized police to act as de facto immigration agents and demand papers from anyone they suspect of being undocumented, which fueled terror among migrant communities….

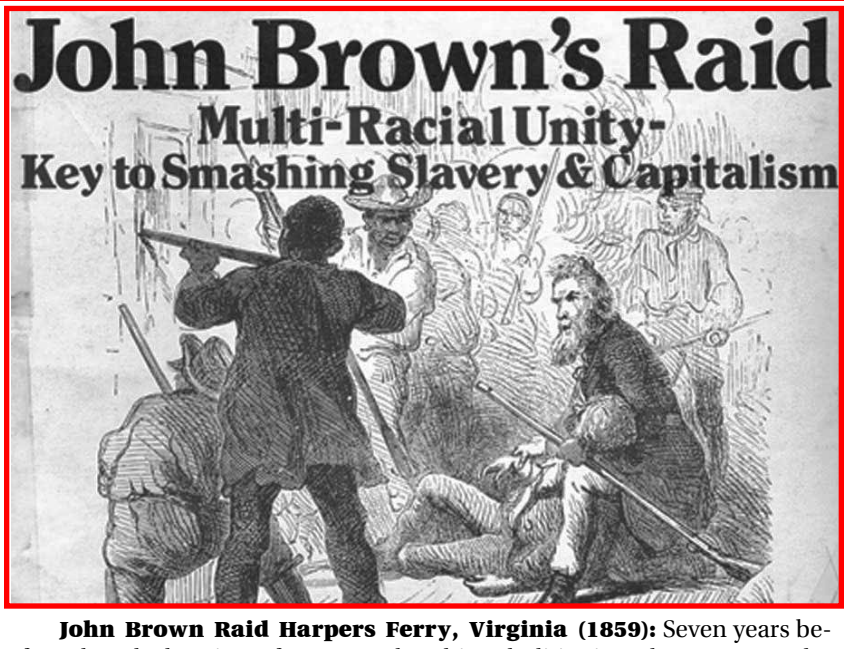
Mario Azar. 35, was stopped by police on his way back from picking onions because of an outstanding ticket on the car he had recently purchased. Azar and four colleagues [in his car] were deported that evening, and his car sold at a city auction.

[The farmworkers' surnames have been changed to protect their identities.]

Juneteenth

U.S. bosses attempt to appropriate antiracism

Nat Turner's Rebellion, Southampton County, Virginia (1831): Enslaved Black preacher Nat Turner led a violent, successful, and sustained four-day rebellion that struck fear into enslavers.



John Brown Raid Harpers Ferry, Virginia (1859): Seven years before the declaration of Juneteenth, white abolitionist John Brown and a band of Black freedom fighters led a militant raid on the enslavers arsenal in Harper's Ferry. Harriet Tubman was unable to join due to illness.

One year ago, at the height of 2020's summer of struggle, celebrations of Juneteenth were embraced amidst an unprecedented global antiracist uprising in the wake of the killing of George Floyd. From New York City (NYC) to California integrated protests erupted, and members of Progressive Labor Party (PLP) joined workers chanting "the only solution is a communist revolution."

While the U.S. ruling class was reeling from this spontaneous, but coordinated and powerful movement, they were also plotting ways to keep the working class in chains. Fast forward to June, 2021 and U.S. President Joe Biden has called to make Juneteenth the first federal holiday since Martin Luther King, Jr. day was added in 1983.

Juneteenth, a reform worth remembering

While breaking their chains from slavery was by no means the final fightback for Black workers in the U.S., Juneteenth remains a celebration of worker power and radical social change.

Prior to the end of the Civil War and Abraham Lincoln's Emancipation Proclamation, the U.S. experienced over 350 organized uprisings, led by enslaved workers, some of which (NY Plot of 1741, Gabriel's Plot of 1800) involved a multiracial cast of conspirators. This culminated most famously in John Brown's 1859 raid on the federal arsenal at Harpers Ferry, Virginia, becoming the spark igniting the Civil War.

On June 19, 1865, now known as Juneteenth, a Union Army arrived in Galveston, Texas with the belated news that slavery and the Civil War were over.

The arrival of these troops came two months after the end of the Civil War and a full two and a half years after the signing of the Emancipation Proclamation, which in reality didn't free any workers from slavery (History.com).

The Civil War in many ways is the blueprint for splits in the U.S. ruling class and exemplifies that Republican or Democrat—Northerner or Southerner—the bosses will only ever prioritize profit and capital. Lincoln was not looking to end slavery becuase he was antiracist, but rather slavery no longer served the needs of the northern, financial and industrial ruling class. The northern rulers needed a united country to pursue their worldwide imperialist ambitions.

It is this same thinking that has led Biden and his liberal fascist lackeys to celebrate Juneteenth.

Following emancipation there was a brief period known as Reconstruction, a veiled reckoning of the last 250 years of racist enslavement. These "efforts" however, lasted only until the Northern ruling class was certain that hostile southern rivals would never again seize hold of federal power.

Once Reconstruction was no longer useful to maintain momentary "peace" for the ruling class and multi-racial unity amongst poor farmers Black and white was budding, (Steven Hahn, *Roots of Southern Populism*) Jim Crow was fastened on the South and the standard of living there for all Southern workers, Black and white, fell to the lowest levels anywhere in the U.S. where they remain to this day (Heather McGhee, The Sum of Us).

Black capitalism—still capitalism

In addition to championing Juneteenth, many celebrations this year commemorated the state-sponsored genocidal destruction of the Greenwood neighborhood of Tulsa, Oklahoma, also known as the Tulsa Massacre.

Continued on page 7

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